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Finance Committee Minutes 04-14-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7:30 PM O'Neill room, community safety building

4/14/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib*	O'Riordan*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons	Morrisette	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan*	
Piandes*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Personnel Director Caryn Cove, Fire Chief Richard Maimone, Architect Brent Carell, Minuteman School Committee Member Erin Phelps, Robin Schoenthaler, Paul Bayer, David Landskov

MINUTES of 4/2/03 accepted as corrected. Unanimous

ARTICLE 53 POSITION RECLASSIFICATION: Cove explained that most of the proposed changes resulted from Public Works Director & Comptroller reorganization of their departments. Other changes reflect real changes in the work being done. She declined to add up the additional costs, saying the amounts were included in department budgets. She was advised to have these figures available at Town Meeting.

VOTED to recommend favorable action. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 68 PARK CIRCLE FIRE STATION: Carell, using a 60-page booklet, reviewed the plan for a new station that his firm produced. The well-appointed new station would be increased in size from one to two equipment bays. The cost estimate is \$2.1 million, a sizable increase from the original estimate. During construction the personnel and equipment would be housed in temporary buildings located on the circle near the water tower. Maimone answered various questions about staffing. He stated that there was room in the Highland & Central stations to house personnel and equipment for a 15-person/shift force. This force would man 3 engines, 1 ladder, 1 rescue, & one chief vehicle. The Finance Committee did not reconsider its previous no-action vote.

ARTICLE 59 MINUTEMAN: Phelps stated that she had opposed all Minuteman budget actions since they did not consider reductions comparable to those expected at AHS. She suggested that the Town Meeting approve a reduced Minuteman Budget that would be comparable to AHS after accounting for differences in accounting (health insurance, building maintenance, capital costs). Tosti to appoint a committee of DeCoursey and Fanning to work with Phelps to estimate such a budget.

OVERRIDE: Discussion of whether to endorse an override continued. Tosti suggested that a \$9 million budget deficit might be covered half by reductions and half by an override. Issues include whether the Manager & Superintendent have restructured, whether to address the 3-year forecast, if there is a limit to cuts below which the Town can't operate, how to improve public understanding of the situation, whether to endorse other revenue raising approaches. No consensus has emerged. The Chair appointed Jones, Franclemont, and Foskett to write a description of the financial situation based on the Manager's projections for inclusion in the Finance Committee Report.

COMMITTEE: Phelps requested the Finance Committee to sponsor a girls' softball team for \$200. The Chair again reminded all members to review entire budget and forward questions to appropriate subcommittee in hopes of saving time during budget reviews. Meetings are planned for 4/16, 4/23, 4/26, 4/30, 5/3. Tosti is planning to have the Finance Committee Report ready for Town Meeting on 5/7.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote / assigned to
1					11	2/19	2/19	bylaw chng	11-2
2					13	2/8	2/8	support	
3					14	2/19		no report	
4					17	2/19		no report	
5					20	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
6					21	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7					23				Foskett
8					24				
9					25	2/19		no report	
10					26	3/26			
11					27	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
12					30	2/26		info request	
13					31	2/26		info request	
14					32	2/19		no report	
15					33	2/8	postponed		
16					34	2/8	postponed		
17a					37				
17b					38				
17c					39				
17d					41	2/8	info req'd		
17e					42	2/8	info req'd		
17f					43	2/8	info req'd		
19					44	3/26	3/26	favor/blank	Unanimous
20					45	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21a					46	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21b					47	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21c					48	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21d	4/2				49	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
22					50	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
23					51	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
24					52	3/26			
25					53	3/26, 4/14	4/14	favor action	Unanimous
26					55	3/26			Du Bois
WS					56	3/81	3/81	6747373	Unanimous
Rec	3/5				57	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
Rnk					59	3/81, 4/14			De Courcney
COA					60	2/19, 2/26	2/19, 2/26	10% reduct	Unanimous
						3/8 Hum Rt	3/8	4500	Unanimous
						3/26 CPC	3/26	0	Unanimous
						3/26 Disabl	3/26	0	Unanimous
YS					61	2/19	2/19	no action	Unanimous
					63A	2/26, 3/26	2/19	2000	8-7
					63B	2/26, 3/26	2/19	5667	14-1
					63C	3/26			
					63D	2/26	2/19	0	Unanimous
					63E	2/26	2/19	3000	12-2
					64B	3/26 Un Em			
					64C	3/26 Trav	3/26	1500	Unanimous
					64E	2/26	2/26	9813	Unanimous
					65	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
					66	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
					67	2/8, 2/11	2/11	no action	Unanimous
					68	3/17, 4/14	3/17	no action	Unanimous
					69	2/11	2/11, 3/26	no action	Unanimous
80					70	2/19	2/19	no action or \$35 kw/OR	12-2
79					71	3/17	3/17	no action	14-1
78				Foskett	72	3/17	3/17	15k to 35k	Unanimous
77				Olson	73				

